

Coast Guard, DHS

§ 28.145

be in good working order, ready for immediate use, and readily accessible before the vessel leaves port and at all times when the vessel is operated.

(b) Each item of lifesaving equipment, including unapproved equipment, must be maintained and inspected in accordance with:

- (1) Table 28.140 in this section;
- (2) The servicing procedure under the subpart of this chapter applicable to the item's approval; and
- (3) The manufacturer's guidelines.

(c) An inflatable liferaft or inflatable buoyant apparatus must be serviced no later than the month and year on its servicing sticker affixed under 46 CFR 160.151-57(n), and whenever the container is damaged or the container straps or seals are broken. It must be serviced at a facility specifically approved by the Commandant for the particular brand.

(d) An escape route from a space where an individual may be employed or an accommodation space must not be obstructed.

TABLE 28.140—SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

Item	Interval		Regulation
	Monthly	Annually	
(1) Inflatable wearable personal flotation device (Type V commercial hybrid)	Servicing	28.140
(2) Personal flotation devices, exposure suits and immersion suits	Inspect, clean and repair as necessary.	28.140
(3) Buoyant apparatus and life floats	Inspect, clean and repair as necessary.	28.140
(4) Inflatable liferaft	Servicing ¹	28.140
(5) Inflatable buoyant apparatus	Servicing ¹	28.140
(6) Hydrostatic release	Servicing ¹	28.140
(7) Disposable hydrostatic release	Replace on or before expiration date.	28.140
(8) Undated batteries	Replace	28.140
(9) Dated batteries ² and other items	Replace on or before expiration date.	25.26-50, 28.140
(10) EPIRB	Test	25.26-50

¹ For a new liferaft or inflatable buoyant apparatus, the first annual servicing may be deferred to two years from the date of first packing if so indicated on the servicing sticker.

² Water activated batteries must be replaced whenever they are used.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991; 56 FR 49822, Oct. 1, 1991, as amended at USCG-2001-11118, 67 FR 58540, Sept. 17, 2002; USCG-2004-18884, 69 FR 58344, Sept. 30, 2004]

§ 28.145 Distress signals.

Except as provided by 28.305, each vessel must be equipped with the distress signals specified in table 28.145.

TABLE 28.145—DISTRESS SIGNALS

Area	Devices required
Ocean, more than 50 miles from coastline.	3 parachute flares, approval series 160.136; plus 6 hand flares, approval series 160.121; plus 3 smoke signals, approval series 160.122.
Ocean, 3-50 miles from the coastline; or more than 3 miles from the coastline on the Great Lakes.	3 parachute flares, approval series 160.136, or 160.036; plus 6 hand flares, approval series 160.121 or 160.021; plus 3 smoke signals, approval series 160.122, 160.022, or 160.037.

TABLE 28.145—DISTRESS SIGNALS—Continued

Area	Devices required
Coastal waters, excluding the Great Lakes; or within 3 miles of the coastline on the Great Lakes.	Night visual distress signals consisting of one electric distress light, approval series 161.013 or 3 approved flares; plus Day visual distress signals consisting of one distress flag, approval series 160.072, or 3 approved flares, or 3 approved smoke signals. ¹

¹ If flares are carried, the same 3 flares may be counted toward meeting both the day and night requirement.

[CGD 88-079, 56 FR 40393, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 48048, Sept. 18, 1995; USCG-2000-7790, 65 FR 58458, Sept. 29, 2000]